are currently active in J and K, a significant prop'dnion of which are estimated to be foreign mercenaries.

Ban on SIMI

375. SHRI NILOTPAL BASU: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has banned the SIMI

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;

(c) the number of cases registered, the number of arrests made of SIMI members and other details before the ban was announced; and

(d) the number of incidents that took place, loss of lives and other details thereof in different States in the wake of the ban?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI I.D. SWAMI): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) to (d) The Students Islamic Movement of India (SIMI) has been found indulging in activities which are prejudicial to the security of the country and have the potential of disturbing peace and communal harmony and disrupting the secular fabric of the country. More than hundred cases have been registered against the activists of this organization under the provisions of various Acts by the Government of different States and several SIMI activists have been arrested. In view of this, the Central Government have declared this organization as an unlawful association under the provisions of the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act. 1967 (37 of 1967) by a Notification dated 27.9.2001.

In the wake of ban imposed on SIMI no serious incidents have been reported except the incidents in Lucknow city in Uttar Pradesh in which 4 lives were lost.

Cease-fire in J and K during Ramzan

376. SHRI A. VIJAYA RAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government will announce cease-fire during this "Ramzan" at Jammu and Kashmir;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the steps taken by Government to check the infiltrators in this State; and

(d) what are the steps taken to assist the security forces?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CHENNAMANENI VIDYA SAGAR RAO): (a) and (b) No such proposal is under consideration at the present.

(c) and (d) The Government has adopted a multi dimensional strategy to curb terrorism and check infiltration in J&K, which includes *inter-alia,* strengthening of border management, gearing up the intelligence machinery, improved technology, weapons, equipment for security forces, greater fuctional integration through a framework of Operation Groups land Intelligence Groups at the UHQ and lower levels, enactment of a comprehensive law on terrorism namely 'the Prevention of Terrorism Ordinance, 2001 (No. 9 of 2001)' etc.

Formation of Federal Investigation Agency

377. SHRI YADLAPATI VENKAT RAO:
DR. ALLADI P. RAJKUMAR:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to form a federal investigation agency for better co-operation in the inter-State investigation; and

(b) if so, the progress made so far in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI I.D. SWAMI): (a) and (b) The Government of India has proposed to set up a federal agency, to deal with certain specified grave offences, which have inter-State and/or nation-wide ramifications. This has been opposed by some States, on the ground that such a move could infringe their constitutidnal right to maintain law and order. Given the legal land constitutional issues involved in the proposal, it would be difficult to indicate a time frame for a final decision on this proposal.